

My name is Margaret Balboni and as a veteran Connecticut teacher, I am writing in support of House Bill 6517.

Symptoms of dyslexia can be lessened when cognitive and social emotional supports are put in place and the cascading consequences if left untreated are avoidable. If we know this to be true, why wouldn't the state of Connecticut do everything in its power to support legislation to strengthen our current delivery system?

Personally, I received my masters and sixth year degree from a Connecticut University in Remedial Reading and Language Arts. However, it wasn't until twenty two years into my post secondary education that I stumbled upon researchers in the field who taught me about the signs and symptoms of dyslexia and how to diagnose and treat them. This was happenstance. Do we really want to leave the education of our children to chance? Of course not. We must do everything in our power to strengthen our prevention system and vet our providers.

I've spent the last decade educating general and special education teachers about the signs and symptoms of dyslexia across this nation, and across the state of Connecticut. I've encountered countless teachers who never learned what dyslexia was, how to diagnose it and how to remediate it. Countless teachers adds up to countless students who have experienced academic failure.

The question is why wouldn't Connecticut want to be at the forefront of educating our teachers about this learning difference? Knowledge is power and by passing of HB 6517 you are empowering Connecticut's educators with the knowledge and tools to identify and teach students using the best, current scientific methods available. Act now.

Respectfully,

Margaret Balboni

Sent from my iPhone